

## Consequences of Teen Pregnancy

- The younger the mother, the more likely the child will experience health complications due to inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight, poor nutrition, and other lifestyles.
- Children of teen mothers are at greater risk of poverty, lower intellectual and academic achievement, and social problems. Poverty is a risk factor for child abuse and violence.
- Teen fathers and mothers complete fewer years of schooling which limits their earning potential.
- Teen mothers smoke more than other mothers. Smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of low birth weight, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and long-term disability.

### Sources:

Washington State, Department Of Health, *Pregnancy and Induced Abortion Statistics*, 1980-1996

Washington State, Department Of Health, *PRAMS 1993-1994*, 1996

Washington State, Department Of Social and Health Services, *County Profiles Birth and Unintended Pregnancy Statistics*, 1998

*Contraceptive Technology*, 17th Revised Edition, 1998.



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## Southwest Washington Health District

# Teen Pregnancy

## in Skamania County



***“The starting point of effective child abuse prevention is pregnancy planning.”***

**C. Everett Koop,  
Surgeon General, 1986.**

*Teen and unintended pregnancy are risk factors that can lead to severe outcomes. These include less academic achievement, lower social and economic status, higher rates of domestic violence, and child abuse. Teen parents are more likely to smoke, have low birth weight babies, and late prenatal care. It is for these reasons we focus health efforts and the information here on teen pregnancy, and unintended pregnancies in Skamania County.*

## Trends in Teen Pregnancy and Births

Pregnancies are the total number of births plus abortions. In 1992-96 there were 28 teen (aged 15-17) pregnancies in Skamania County; 61% resulted in live births.

Rates allow comparison among different areas.

- Teen birth rates in Skamania County have met state and national goals since the 1988-1992 period.
- Fewer than half of Skamania County's teen pregnancies end in abortion.

## Unintended Pregnancy

Unintended pregnancies are defined as either unwanted or mistimed at the time of conception.

In Washington State in 1993-94:

- 55% of pregnancies were unintended.
- 40% of births were a result of unintended pregnancies.
- 85% of pregnancies in the 15-17 age groups were unintended.

## Cost of Teen Pregnancy

Births to teenagers are more likely to be publicly funded than births to older mothers.

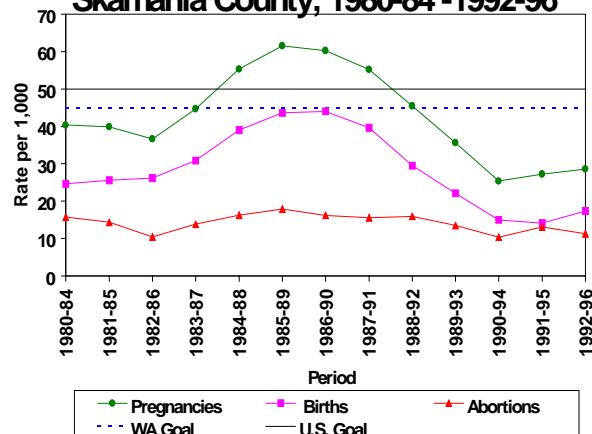
- The average Medicaid maternity care cost in 1996 was \$5,304.

In 1996 Medicaid paid for:

- 63% of births to 15-17 year olds in Washington State compared to 31.1% of all births.

## Teen Pregnancy Rates

**Birth, Abortion and Pregnancy Rates  
Skamania County, 1980-84 -1992-96**



**Comparable 1992-96 Rates**  
(per 1,000 15-17 year old girls):

	Rate
Skamania County:	27
Washington State:	53
Oregon State:	48

**Year 2000 Goals:**

	Rate
Washington State:	45
United States:	50

## Prevention Strategies

- Increase accessibility of comprehensive reproductive health services for teens.
- Increase youth education on teen pregnancy prevention.
- Increase parent training on communication with youth.



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